

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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SUBJECT: SECURITY CHECKS FOR UNITED STATES REFUGEE PROGRAM
(USRP)

REF: GENEVA 02667

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION
REGARDING SECURITY CHECKS FOR SUBJECT PROGRAM AND WE WOULD
WELCOME ANY MEASURES WHICH WOULD STREAMLINE PROCEDURES AND
AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS. HOWEVER, MISSION SHOULD
UNDERSTAND THAT BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL USRP CASES REMAINS
AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE PROGRAM. SUCH CHECKS SHOULD BE
INITIATED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER REFUGEE REGISTERED
FOR USRP ASSISTANCE BY VOLAG. THERE IS CONCERN IN CERTAIN
CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERS THAT ADEQUATE MEASURES BE TAKEN TO
ENSURE THAT NO TAX PAYER'S DOLLARS ARE BEING EXPENDED ON
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INELIGIBLE OR UNWORTHY REFUGEES. QUESTIONS OF THIS NATURE
ARE RAISED EACH YEAR DURING OUR BUDGET HEARINGS. HERETOFORE
WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE ASSURANCES TO INTERESTED CONGRESS-
MEN THAT APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS ARE BEING EXERCISED. FYI:
IN THE EARLY STAGES OF USRP A CONGRESSIONAL HEARING WAS
STAGED IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY ON THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE
PROGRAM. END FYI.

2. RE PARA 1 OF REFTTEL WE ARE SOMEWHAT TROUBLED BY THE SUGGESTION THAT IDENTICAL CHECKS ARE CONDUCTED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY THE INS. IF THIS IS TRUE AND PROVIDING MISSION (HA) CAN PROMPTLY SECURE RESULTS OF INS CHECKS THERE IS NO PROBLEM. HOWEVER, WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT NOT ALL REFUGEES REGISTERED BY VOLAGS FOR USRP BECOME APPLICANTS FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION AND SECONDLY IN MANY CASES THERE IS A TIME LAG BETWEEN THE REGISTRATION OF INDIVIDUAL REFUGEE CASES FOR USRP BY THE VOLAGS (AT WHICH TIME USRP ASSISTANCE COMMENCES) AND THE ACTUAL SUBMISSION TO INS OF THE APPLICANTS APPLICATION FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION.

3. DEPARTMENT HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT EXISTING PROCEDURE FOR SECURING NATIONAL AGENCY CHECKS IN WASHINGTON WAS WORKING VERY EFFICIENTLY AND THAT RETURNS ON ALL INDIVIDUAL CASES WERE RECEIVED IN A MATTER OF 2-3 WEEKS. WOULD SECURITY PROCEDURES WITH INS BE ANY MORE EFFICIENT ESPECIALLY VIEW FACT THAT INS WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO REPORT ON ALL USRP CASES?

4. MISSION (HA) SHOULD REVIEW MATTER IN LIGHT THESE CONSIDERATIONS AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROCEDURAL STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MEET SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF USRP PROGRAM IN MOST EFFICIENT, COMPLETE AND TIMELY WAY. IN MEANTIME EXISTING PROCEDURES SHOULD BE CONTINUED. VANCE
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